



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - August 2, 2002

- ***In the West***, beneficial showers are spreading across the ***Four Corners and Intermountain regions***, easing irrigation requirements, reducing the wildfire threat, and providing limited relief from long-term drought. Meanwhile in the ***West Coast States***, very warm, dry weather favors the development of irrigated summer crops but continues to stress rangelands and dryland small grains.
- ***On the Plains***, temperatures have returned to near- or below-normal levels, following recent record heat, but drought continues to severely stress pastures and dryland summer crops across ***South Dakota, Nebraska, eastern Colorado, and much of Kansas***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, highly beneficial showers are scattered across ***eastern portions of the region***, but many fields are in need of more rain to prevent additional stress on reproductive to filling corn and soybeans. Soil moisture remains mostly adequate in the ***upper Mississippi Valley***, but summer crops remain under significant moisture stress in the ***westernmost Corn Belt***.
- ***In the South***, hot weather is accelerating summer crop development from the ***Delta westward***, while beneficial showers continue in the ***eastern Gulf Coast and southern Atlantic regions***.

Outlook: During the weekend, hot weather will return to the ***Corn Belt***, while wet weather will overspread the ***upper Midwest***. A weakening cold front will bring little relief to the hot, mostly dry weather plaguing the ***middle and southern Atlantic Coastal Plain***. Farther south, showers are possible along the ***southern Atlantic and Gulf Coasts***. Hot, mostly dry weather will prevail across the ***southern Plains***, while monsoon showers will continue in the ***Southwest***. The 6-10 day outlook for August 7-11 calls for above-normal temperatures in the ***Plains and Corn Belt***. Meanwhile, cooler-than-normal weather is forecast for the ***Pacific Northwest, western Gulf Coast region, Northeast, and Mid-Atlantic States***. Above-normal rainfall is expected for the ***upper Mississippi Valley, Southwest, and western Gulf Coast region***, while below-normal precipitation is forecast across the ***central Rockies, central Plains, and Corn Belt***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)